(India) Limited (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). The contract period is for 25 years, beginning from the last quarter of 2009. Simultaneously, the parties have also signed a side letter to the LNG SPA on 13th June, 2005, as per which NIGEC desired to obtain the approval of their parent company, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), for the SPA to become effective. NIGEC has not conveyed NIOC's Board approval till now.

Auditing of share contracts

3065. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost 20 oil and gas production sharing contracts signed under the New Exploration Licensing Policy I-V and the Pre-NELP regime are being audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India;

(b) if so, whether this move gathers significance on the back drop of the alleged inflated figures in budgets of some exploration companies before start of commercial production from the fields;

(c) if so, by what time the CAG is likely to give its report; and

(d) whether the Cabinet Secretary in his report on gas pricing, had suggested better monitoring of capital expenditure plans of exploration companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The office of Principal Director of Audit, Economic and Service Ministries, has taken up performance audit of 22 blocks fields including Pre-NELP and NELP blocks/producing fields. No time frame for completion of the performance audit and submission of report has been given by Audit.

The Cabinet Secretary, in his report, had recommended strengthening of the Management Committees and the Audit Mechanism under the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs). In view of this and in view of the concerns expressed in various quarters about capital expenditure by operators, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas had requested Comptroller & Auditor General of India to carry out special audit of eight blocks/fields.

Extra expenditure by ONGC

3066. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC actually incurred an expenditure of Rs. 3286 crores against the estimated amount of Rs. 2482 crores as revealed through an analysis of 35 wells;

(b) if so, whether scrutiny of seismic surveys contracts showed ONGC's lack of foresight in chartering and mobilizing specialized vessels; and

(c) the sum-total of losses suffered in the shape of extra expenditure having been incurred over the estimated expenditure of drilling and exploration during the Tenth Plan?